

Communicable Disease in School Settings

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Cimarron, Dewey and Ellis Counties

Oklahoma State Department of Health **Resources for Schools**

Too Sick for



When should a child stay home from school for illness?

reasons your child may be too sick for school

Epidemiologist-on-Call 405-271-4060

- Available 24/7/365 for
 - Letter Development
 - Press Releases (if needed)
 - Exclusion Recommendations
 - Paper Resources
 - Website:
 - OSDH Home Oklahoma State Department of Health

Head Lice

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hea or Vomiting

of movements, even if there are child is too sick for school. Any lild home or keep a child home, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours.

s for returning to school depending on Children with contagious rashes, such osales, need to be kept home. If your lever, keep them at home and talk with

gh or Sore throat ore throat should be watched



municable conditions such as head lice ay need to be kept home from school, see a healthcare provider for treatment.

d is too sick for school?

Varicella Outbreak Control Recommendations (Samule Latter to Parents of Children in a School or Child Care Setting)

(County Health Department Letterhead)

(Innert date of letter)

You are receiving this letter because several children in your child's classroom at proof appropriate scrot achoolichid care penter name) have contracted chickenpox. Although this is usually not a serious illness, it often causes children to miss days of (insert approxim school / daycare) while they have a rash, and parents to miss work when they stay home to take care of their children. In some children, chickenpox may cause more serious likees and may

As you are probably aware, a vaccine that can prevent chickencox (varicella vaccine) is available and has been shown to be safe and effective for children who are older than 12 months of age. Recently, a second dose of vancella vaccine has been recommended for children who previously have received only one dose. This second dose provides increased protection and decreases the chance of developing chickenpox after coming in contact with the virus. Children who have had chickenpox or have a valid exemption to the vaccine are not required to receive the vaccine.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health feels your child may be at an increased risk of contracting chickenpox and recommends your child to receive a second dose of vaccine from the Green County Health Department or their primary health care provider. A varicella vaccine clinic will be held at the (insert County) County Health Department on (insert date) from (enter show start time) to (enter show and time)

If your child does develop chickenpox, he or she will be kept from attending (insert approp word school / decrees until all teache have market over. If your child currently has a chickengox-like nash illness, please contact the (most County) County Health Department at

An information sheet about chickenpox and the vancalla vaccine is included for your information. The (vaset Goorth) County Health Department recommend that you contact your child's regular health care provider if you have questions regarding your child's history of chickenpox vaccination or history of litness due to this disease. If you have questions regarding chickenpox or this letter, please feel free to contact the (exact County) County Health Department at (most CHD phone number).

Thank you

(Name and Credentists) (Title)

Public Health Law & Disease Reporting

63 O.S. Sec 1-502. Rules & Regulations

- Authorizes the State Board of Health to adopt rules and regulations necessary to prevent and control communicable diseases.

63 O.S. Sec 1-502.2. Confidentiality

-Requires that all information and records held or maintained by any state agency or health care provider which identify any person who has a reportable communicable disease shall be confidential



HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 effective 4/14/2003

Section 262

 "Nothing in this part shall be construed to invalidate or limit the authority, power, or procedures established under any law providing for the reporting of disease or injury, child abuse, birth, or death, public health surveillance, or public health investigation or intervention."

FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

34 C.F.R. §99.31(a)(1) and 99.36

- -FERPA permits disclosure without written consent in specified emergency situations if the information is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals
- -Disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) may be made to "appropriate parties," which include health agencies
 - -Temporarily limited to the period of the emergency and generally does not allow for a blanket release of PII from the students education records





Sharing of Information

- OSDH ADS may request information about students needed for a public health investigation or outbreak
 - Name, age, date of birth, grade, teacher, attendance/absentee dates
- OSDH may not be able to release certain details about reason for the investigation due to confidentiality reasons
 - i.e., disease name or type
- OSDH will provide schools with as much information as we are able during a public health investigation

Common Communicable Diseases in School Settings

Reasons children or staff should not be in school

- Fever
- Diarrhea or Vomiting
- Rash
- Cough or sore throat (especially with fever)
- Other conditions...



Norovirus

- Highly Contagious
 - Close contact
 - Contaminated food or water
 - Contaminated surfaces, objects, or substances
 - Long shedding time and high viral load
- Virus can persist on surfaces for weeks
 - Difficult to kill
 - Cleansers must specify effective against norovirus







Recommendations for Schools

- Contact health department
- Exclude ill until 72 hours after symptoms
- Wash hands after every encounter with ill
- Post hand hygiene signage
- Recommend postponement of activities
- Maintain same staff
- Non-essential staff and parents should not visit school



Meningitis

- A complication of an infection
- Organism is transmitted not meningitis
- Viral Most Common:
 - Incubation 3-6 days
 - Symptoms 7-10 days
 - Death is rare recovery usually complete
 - Medication NOT recommended for contacts
- Bacterial:
 - Incubation hours to days
 - Potentially serious disease, disabilities and death
 - Vaccine available for some types
 - Medication MAY be indicated for contacts



Meningitis

- Parent notification not recommended
- Enhanced environmental cleaning not recommended
- If meningococcal disease or Hib:
 - Exposed persons will be contacted directly by county or state health dept.
 - Health department staff may need assistance identifying contacts at risk
 - Mass prophylaxis usually not indicated
- Contacts receiving antibiotics may attend school/activities
- Schools should contact county or state health department when notified of a case of meningitis



Rash Illness

 Not all rashes require exclusion from school (but sometimes that's hard to determine!)

 Rashes that appear to worsen or accompanied by a fever, should be evaluated by a healthcare provider

 Exclude students/staff from school/activities if rash accompanied by a fever



Chickenpox (Varicella)

- Caused by a virus
- Spread by contact with lesions or respiratory secretions
- Contagious 1-5 days before rash until lesions are crusted
- Can take 10-21 days from exposure until development of rash
- Lesions occur in crops
- Lesions start on trunk, abdomen, or face rather than arms or legs



Chickenpox (Varicella)

- Prevention: Vaccine, 2 doses after age 1
- Exclusion: Exclude from school until all vesicles are crusted
 - -Breakthrough infections are contagious
- Report to County Health Department:
 - -Number ill, symptoms, rash progression
 - -Can assist with:
 - 1. Developing letters
 - 2. Exclusion recommendations
 - 3. Vaccination clinic



Shingles

- Painful rash resulting from reactivation of Varicella (chicken pox) virus
- Exclusion not recommended as long as lesions are covered
- Draining lesions, cover by dressing plus clothing
- If drainage cannot be contained exclusion necessary





Shingles

*ADAM

Measles

- New cases in U.S.
 - -Unvaccinated
 - -Foreign travel
- Highly contagious
 - -Exclude from school at least 4 days after rash appears
- Vaccine: Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Report suspected case to OSDH immediately





Streptococcal Infections

- Bacteria spread person to person
- Contagious until treated with appropriate antibiotics
- Can result in impetigo, strep throat and scarlet fever
- Exclude until after antibiotic treatment for 24 hours



Impetigo



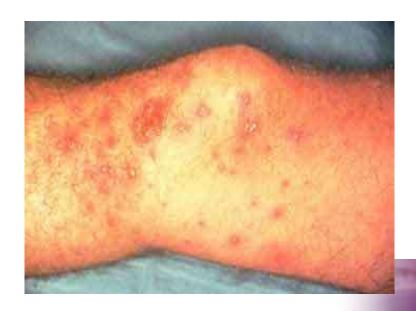
Strep throat



Scarlet
Fever
engageok
on THE ROAD

Staphylococcus aureus

- Normal skin flora
- One of the most common causes of skin infections, usually minor
 - Pimples
 - Boils
 - Impetigo
 - Cellulitis
- Exclusion not recommended
- Keep draining lesions covered





Influenza and Schools

- Fever and respiratory symptoms caused by a virus
- Person-to-person by respiratory droplets
- Contagious one day before symptoms to 1 week later
- Symptoms occur about 1-5 days after exposure
- Report high absenteeism to county health department
- County health department can:
 - Letters to parents
 - Information resources
 - Other prevention/control measures





Reducing Flu in the Schools

- Recognize the symptoms of flu
- Remove ill children from classroom
- Send child home
- Exclude from ALL activities for 24 hrs after fever gone
- Increase hand washing or hand sanitizers
- Clean school surfaces frequently





Infection Control in the School Setting

- Separate the ill child from well children
- Notify parents/guardians
- Adhere to recommendations
- Implement strategies to prevent spread
- Utilize sanitizing procedures
 - Take extra precautions with handwashing, food handling, and general cleanliness in school environment
- Currently vaccinated staff
- Restrict immunocompromised staff
 - Pregnant, chemotherapy, etc.



Exclusion Recommendations

- Varies depending on disease, some common "themes"
 - Fever: until 24 hours after resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications
 - Diarrhea: until 24 hours after diarrhea has ceased
 - Rash: after lesions have crusted over (depends on diagnosis)
 - Skin infections: exclusion not usually recommended unless unable to be covered



School Role Summary

- Report communicable diseases
- Communicate to parents
- Implement control measures
- Designate health department and media contacts



Health Department Role

- Outbreak Investigation
 - Meet with school nurse and/or administrative staff
 - Visit school site
 - Interview parents
- Communicate to parents
- Contact Investigation
- Outbreak Management



Online Resources

Disease-specific facts sheets and infographics are available online at:

http://ads.health.ok.gov under "Disease Information"

Questions??

Thank You!

